

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for decomposing a polymer into a monomer or oligomer, comprising:

hydrolyzing a polymer with sub- or supercritical water, at least a part of the polymer being a polymer comprising a constitutional unit derived from an organic acid in the molecular structure, and the polymer being contacted with sub- or supercritical water in the presence of a water-insoluble base[[,]];

recovering a monomer or oligomer obtained by decomposition of the polymer,

wherein the water-insoluble base comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of CaCO_3 , BaCO_3 and $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$.

Claim 2 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the polymer is a polyester.

Claim 3 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a polyester having no chlorine in the molecular structure.

Claims 4-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble base comprises at least CaCO_3 .

Claim 18 (new): A process according to claim 1, wherein an amount of the water-insoluble base is 50 to 200 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer.

Claim 19 (new): A process for decomposing a polymer into a monomer or oligomer, comprising:

hydrolyzing a polymer with sub- or supercritical water, at least a part of the polymer being a polymer comprising a constitutional unit derived from an organic acid, the polymer being contacted with sub- or supercritical water in the presence of a water-insoluble base, the

water-insoluble base being in an amount sufficient such that hydrolysis dominates over pyrolysis in decomposition of the polymer;

recovering a monomer or oligomer obtained by the decomposition of the polymer,
wherein the water-insoluble base comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of CaCO_3 , BaCO_3 and Ca(OH)_2 .

Claim 20 (new): A process according to claim 19, wherein at least a part of the polymer is a polyester.

Claim 21 (new): A process according to claim 19, wherein the polymer is a polyester having no chlorine in the molecular structure.

Claim 22 (new): A process according to claim 19, wherein the water-insoluble base comprises at least CaCO_3 .

Claim 23 (new): A process according to claim 19, wherein the amount of the water-insoluble base is 50 to 200 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer.